

THE EVENING STAR.

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THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent Family Circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

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Europe and the Monroe Doctrine. The London Spectator, in some observations on Secretary Hay's New York speech, says:

"If America will define the Monroe doctrine, why shouldn't we formally acknowledge it and pledge ourselves not to interfere on it? America might then propose to the other powers for their endorsement. They could hardly refuse and their admission would be of great use not to America but to the cause of peace, for it would eliminate many notable causes of war. The risk of war in regard to European intervention in Brazil and Spanish South America, which is now always a possibility, would pass away."

The Monroe doctrine has been sufficiently defined for all practical purposes, and Great Britain has acknowledged it. Mr. Olney's letter in the Venezuelan case could not very well be improved upon, although there were a few people in the United States who refused to accept it. But the British government accepted it, and it is not too much to assume that no English statesman would deliberately seeking war with this country will challenge the doctrine at any time. So far as Great Britain is concerned, the United States has no serious misgivings on that subject.

As for formally proposing the Monroe doctrine to "the other powers for endorsement" the United States would probably not think of that for a moment. Why throw the question into the arena of international debate? We are not in a position to make the doctrine objectionable to some of the European nations; and nothing is more likely than if invited by us to express themselves in concert about it they would deliver themselves in a way to embarrass us. Suppose they curtly expressed themselves on the subject, and intimated that we were making too great pretensions in the world. Would it strengthen our position for us to reply that we were not, and that we stood ready to make our pretensions good at the point of the sword? What would be the advantage to anybody of a "sassing" match between the United States and Europe about so important a matter?

The Monroe doctrine is an unwritten law, and should remain. There is not a power anywhere that does not perfectly understand its full and proper meaning. There are some European ambitions that chafe at its scope, but they are in no position to challenge the political safety of this hemisphere. In the one case as in the other we feel ourselves competent to attend to the business unaided by Europe. The Monroe doctrine is a postscript to the Declaration of Independence, and they will stand or fall together. The United States is responsible for both.

Big Fortunes.

How times are changed in the matter of men's fortunes! Tuesday night a dinner was given by the New York chamber of commerce attended by probably the largest aggregation of plutocrats the world knows. Thirty-three of these present, according to one estimate, own an aggregate of no less than \$1,400,000,000, an average of something over \$42,000,000 apiece. Of course much allowance must be made for the fat round figure in which it is customary nowadays to speak of certain men's fortunes. Probably no one outside of his own intimate circle knows with certainty, for instance, how much J. Pierpont Morgan is worth. He is set down in the list under consideration at \$400,000,000. It is easy to add or subtract a hundred million in this range. Just so with D. O. Mills who is accredited with \$300,000,000. Five million more or less is a trifle the computer for such a purpose would not care to dispute. Such fortunes are ordinarily stated, therefore, in multiples of five millions. One conspicuous exception to this rule occurs in the case of Chauncey M. Depew, who is credited with a trifle of \$8,000,000. It is a matter for wonder why the compiler was not generous with him, giving him an even \$10,000,000. The fact is that these individual holdings are susceptible of serious fluctuations. Composed as they are largely of investments, and estimated upon the basis of the market value and the earning capacity of certain stocks, they may shrink or swell by a million apiece in the course of twenty-four hours. Of course the bulk of some of these fortunes takes the form of real estate, which is susceptible of less frequent and marked changes of value, and these are estimated with comparative accuracy. Men's wealth was more easily calculated in past years, when the aggregates seldom touched the hundred thousand point. Then the items of property were more distinct, so many acres of plantation land, so many slaves, or ships or hogheads of tobacco or bales of cotton, or houses. With the influx of the railroad and the telegraph came changes which have led swiftly to almost unthinkable fortunes represented at that metropolitan feast.

King Edward is transacting business quite as efficiently as if his crown had been duly placed. The main purpose of the coronation, after all, is to give the bank clerks and others a holiday.

The change of fashions is shown by the number of people now willing to confess that they have a cold instead of a gripe.

Congress and the Country.

There are some difficult problems to be presented to the incoming congress, but as ability and experience count for much in the parliamentary field they ought to be satisfactorily disposed of. The body, in both branches, will be well officered, and the country need not borrow any trouble.

Speaker Henderson has seen some eighteen years of continuous service in the House, and has been during the greater part of the time a leading figure there. As committee chairman, as debater in the full House, and as Speaker, his experience has covered every important phase of the congressional life. He has grown up as a parliamentary force with the leading questions that now confront the people. His principal lieutenants, Messrs. Payne, Cannon and Hitt, also are veterans, and will take up duties with which they are thoroughly familiar. And they in turn will be supported in carrying out the work of the session by a number of men with whom they are in accord. The House ought to move off rapidly and sure-footedly.

In the Senate we find an equally promising state of affairs. Mr. Frye is not only one of the best presiding officers that body has ever had, but the range of his information is so wide and the character of his judgment so sound that his party profits by

his presence in every way. No member of a very capable Senate is more capable than he. And for the leading chairmanships there are men of an excellent order. Some of them have grown gray in the chamber, and all of them by their performances have achieved national distinction. If they are not qualified for the tasks to be set before them, where may success be found?

With all of these men the President has discussed public measures. He has given them his confidence and invited their aid. The welfare of both the country and the party has been thoroughly considered by them. Could more care be taken to insure harmony and good results? Ought they not in a large measure to follow? Need the country, for the present at least, sit up o' nights waiting for that scrap and catastrophe which the croakers are predicting?

It would be idle to deny that there are divisions in the republican party on the tariff question, and that they are likely to show themselves before the session is very far advanced. But on all other questions there is substantial agreement within the ranks, and even on that the differences are not such as preclude the likelihood of adjustment. As the full responsibility is with the republicans, and so much depends on what they do, it is good for the country to remember that they are well led and in fighting form.

King Edward's Coronation.

Wherever there is a true sense of national pride, the action of King Edward respecting admission to the coronation ceremony will be sincerely applauded. Some of his subjects were preparing to market their privileges to rich and curious foreigners, but the king puts his foot down and prohibits the transaction. By his orders the occasion, in its outlook as well as in its acts, is to be distinctly British. He will put on the crown in the presence of those sworn to his service. The attendance shall mean something.

It will be a good thing if the influence of this decision reaches beyond the particular affair it was designed to affect. The world for some years has been running to the show business. The piles of money heaped up everywhere, and the large multiplication of the leisure class of people, have created a demand for constant excitement of some kind. Many occasions have lost their original meaning and taken on frivolous features, which mar their solemnity and beauty. Everybody is posed and photographed. Every scene is set for theatrical effect and photographers. This meets the appetite of the idle and the curious with bulging wallets, and thus money invades every function. Here was a case where it was proposed to make the head of a powerful empire the star actor in a drama whose scenes would be enacted before an audience largely composed of people without a farthing's interest beyond that of momentary curiosity in what was taking place.

King Edward very properly draws the line at the coronation ceremony. The outside proceedings will afford visitors all the excitement they can reasonably ask. London will be a very live and gay town for weeks before and weeks after the coronation of the sovereign. There will be no lack of show features which legitimately go with that momentous act, and they should satisfy the longings of those who have money to spend and are willing to travel long distances to see stirring sights. It will probably be stated that the disappointment falls the most heavily on Americans, but the probability is that we have our share of people who try to buy their visit in wherever a door is open and a visit is worth while, but we do not by any means monopolize that class. They are found all over Europe, and wherever found they and their wealth show abundant cheek and energy. All such will be served alike by this order of the British coronation, and the whole proceedings in London next summer will be the better and the more seemly for it.

The Restless Little Republics.

The arrest of Guerra, Venezuelan minister of war, on suspicion of having engaged in a conspiracy against President Castro, is not a surprising development in view of the peculiar conditions in that unfortunate country. The president, who has adopted a policy which has led inevitably to the destruction of all sincere ties between him and his official associates. Cruel toward his enemies, suspicious of his apparent friends, jealous of the prerogatives of his office, ambitious to increase his power, he has naturally forced his ministers into strictly subordinate relations. The very atmosphere in Venezuela breeds revolution under such circumstances.

Castro's downfall must come some day. Venezuela is no Mexico and Castro is no Diaz. The change will probably not be by the peaceful election of a rival. They do not do those things that way in Venezuela. Revolution is the approved mode. One such is even now under way in the state.

A land so beset by conspiracy, riot and revolution handicaps itself in the modern race for prosperity. Capital is shy of venturing into so turbulent a region. Immigrants seek cultivation for homes. The pacific, progressive inhabitants are drained in purse and frightened from taking active part in the affairs of state. The natural resources of the region lie only partly developed.

A New York man who failed to render the required return of expenses as a candidate for the office of alderman on the prohibition ticket in the late election when arrested in consequence declared his entire ignorance of his own candidacy. He is unique in the field of politics. Candidates have often enough been forced to accept nominations against their will and judgment. Others have been named without their knowledge, but they have soon learned the fact. But a man who had to find out from a warrant-serving policeman that he had actually run for public office is a novelty.

Politicians have long had a contemptuous phrase to describe a weak candidate, but this is perhaps the first time on record that a man in fact "didn't know he was running." There must be a dearth of prohibitionist aspirants for office in the metropolis.

President Castro has arrested his minister of war for conspiring against his government. A man in Castro's position naturally gets cynical and distrustful in a few years.

China's great wall is unmistakable evidence that the celestial kingdom may also claim credit for a price discovery of the advantage of an exclusion act.

Ex-President Cleveland has quit looking up remedies for social conditions and is confining his research to remedies for a bad cold.

It was, unfortunately, impossible to have the weather made to order for the President's yachting trip.

Street Car Sanitation.

On some of the street car lines in this city the requirements of cleanliness and health are evidently not observed as strictly as they should be by either passengers or managers. Notwithstanding the presence of the anti-spitting placard over the doors, the floors are often fouled in a manner to offend the sense of decency and to affront the nostrils. Ventilators are seldom opened and, during the rush hours particularly, the air becomes foul.

There is no reason why fresh air and clean floors and well-ventilated cars should be had on all the lines. Conductors or better, barn managers can be instructed to see that cars are thoroughly cleaned more frequently. Also, that at least two ventilators, one on each side, are open in each

car at all times. Conductors can be instructed anew by the railway companies to warn passengers against befooling the floors of the cars and opportunity is sure to come soon, if the employees are thus on the alert, to make a case in court against some persistent splitter who refuses to observe the regulations.

The public health depends in a large degree than may generally be supposed upon the conditions in the street cars. Here people in both health and disease are crowded closely together, and in the light of modern hygienic principles it is in the last degree important that every precaution be taken to minimize the danger of transmitting germs in this manner.

Mr. Gathmann is naturally disappointed because of the results of the gun test. But by careful study he may discover some other way of killing people in large numbers. For the present, however, this particular branch of civilization may be regarded as being at a standstill. People who were defeated in an engagement in the navy until this experiment was tried may now proceed with confidence. The usual fashions of martial homicide will prevail for several seasons.

It is now said that Mr. Roosevelt's message, instead of being the shortest on record, will be the longest. Mr. Roosevelt is apparently depended upon to make it positive in its quality, one way or the other.

Admiral Dewey's position in the court of inquiry is a trying one. In fact Mr. Dewey seems destined to be thrust into positions which make great demands on his diplomatic faculty.

M. S. Quay is not stopping to indulge in any sentimental reflections of the "et tu, Brute" order. He will simply proceed to be as disagreeable as he knows how.

The English people have at least the satisfaction of knowing that the war is not causing them as much difficulty as the Boer taxpayers are experiencing.

If China could guarantee the arrival of a number of people of the Wu Ting Fang sort, there would be no need of an exclusion act.

Richard Croker has not yet learned to drop his H's. But he occasionally drops a few X's and V's on an election.

Mr. Low discovers that there is just as much eagerness to get on a reform payroll as on any other kind.

It begins to look as if the Bulgarian brigands employed a press agent.

SHOOTING STARS.

Taken for Granted.

"I see that man is abusing me again," said Senator Sorghum in a tone of annoyance.

"Yes. He says you have grown inordinately proud and that your pride must be humbled."

"I suppose he thinks that what makes me proud is my money; and that the way to humble my pride is to take some of it away from me. Tell him to come around."

Helpful.

"Don't you think it's a man's duty to be a little helpful in his home?" said Miss Maggie Zeen.

"Of course, I do," answered Mr. Meekton. "I am now engaged in studying stenography and typewriting so as to be able to take down Henrietta's speeches."

A Holiday Reflection.

You know 'twill soon be Christmas. By the frost, the song, the joke; By your strongly generous impulse; By the fact that you are broke.

Bravery.

"It takes a brave man to be a physician," said the timorous person.

"What makes you think so?"

"Germans."

"But we all have to fight them."

"Yes. But the physician is the one who has to meet them face to face under the microscope. I don't hesitate to admit that if I were to find a germ looking me squarely in the eye I should get scared and run."

A Journalistic Feature Explained.

"Joslar," said Mrs. Cornstossel, "did you ever see them 'hnts on agriculture' that gets into the paper?"

"Yes. I've read 'em."

"Well, did you ever try to run a farm by 'em?"

"Gracious! No! You see, the city folks that takes the paper has a good deal of curiosity about how a farm is run. It don't make much difference what you tell 'em as long as you keep 'em interested."

Cynical Advice.

The man who talks the whole day long and tries to elevate the throng is destined to die before he is forgotten. Or else we murmur "tommyrot."

But he who takes his simple ease And never chides, but tries to please, And never thinks and seldom tries Is praised for wisdom to the skies.

So, gentle youth, this lesson heed: As eagerly you learn and read: Unless your talk is very small: 'Tis better not to talk at all.

Into the Future.

From the Detroit Free Press. One thing justly inferred from the election in Ohio is that she will not furnish the next republican candidate for President. When she comes to the center on the off year with a plurality of 60,000 she puts herself where the Warwick convention may say that anybody can carry Ohio. Besides that, there is a man from New York who has the power to nominate himself, and has only to pursue the course mapped out by himself to do so.

Favors Curfew Law.

From the Charleston News and Courier.

The "astounding fact" is made known that "in more than a thousand towns and villages of the United States curfew ordinances are in force. Their general provision is that boys and girls must be off the streets by 9 o'clock, except when out with parents or guardians." The really astonishing thing about this is that any city or town should be without such a law.

Away With Pulls.

From the Birmingham Age-Herald.

President Roosevelt will not accumulate enemies by dispensing with political pulls. He cannot carry that fashion too far.

Merry Xmas Depew.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

All the world will wish Chauncey Depew a merry Christmas.

One Reason.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The immense amount of money paid for freight bills for gold to the coast for the current exportation of gold.

Equal to the Ordeal.

From the Boston Herald.

It isn't every country on the face of the globe that could export \$1,000,000 of gold in a day. The United States is not out experiencing considerable embarrassment. The United States seems to be equal to the ordeal, however.

What?

From the Minneapolis Times.

We must not whisper a word against the tariff because it is a good and we must not say a word in condemnation of monopoly because prosperity prevails. What will happen when the lean years come?

Can't Bury Dole.

From the Chicago Tribune.

The esteemed Honolulu Sunday Volcano continues its regular weekly eruptions of anti-Dole ashes and lava.

300 lb. leaves to the barrel.

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* Bread, Cakes, Pies and
* Puddings are made of
* Cream Blend Flour. Not
* only the turkey, but every-
* thing baked on Thanks-
* giving day should be
* "done to a nicety." The
* bread should be light and
* nutritious—the cakes, pies
* and puddings inviting and
* delicious.

"Cream Blend," The Perfect Flour

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* every day. It's unvarying
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* Thanksgiving order to the
* grocer be sure that "Cream
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52-inch All-Wool Cheviot Plaids,

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50c. a yard. Regular price, 75c.

Cheviots and Homespuns are very popular this season for tailor gowns, rainy-day costumes and skirts, and greatly in demand for raglans and other long overgarments.

Rich Black Dress Goods.

A black gown is an indispensable part of a woman's wardrobe, and especially so this season, when black is demanded by fashion to a greater extent than ever before. Such a gown bespeaks a refinement of taste, and there is also an economic side, which, added to the general attractiveness, places it pre-eminently in the lead.